

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06932 201727Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /043 W  
-----004180 201729Z /53

O 201710Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5016  
INFO CSAF WASHDC//XOX IMMEDIATE  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER//XP/DO IMMEDIATE  
CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NEB//DO IMMEDIATE  
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL//DO IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE  
16THAF TORREJON SP//DO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE  
HDET 2, 306 STRATWG ZARAGOZA AB SP/CC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 06932

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, SP, UK, GW, GR  
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO AIR DIVISIONS AT  
RAMSTEIN AB, GERMANY; REDESIGNATION OF DETACHMENT 2 AT  
ZARAGOZA

REF: (A) STATE 126023 (DTG 180035Z MAY 78)  
(B) MADRID 05566 (DTG 181817Z MAY 78)

1. AS FORECAST IN REF B, WE INFORMED THE GOS ON MAY 18 OF  
THE PLAN TO REDESIGNATE DETACHMENT 2 AT ZARAGOZA AB THE  
"34TH STRATEGIC SQUADRON." WE HAD HOPED THAT OUR  
REASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES IN THE UNIT'S  
MISSION, NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT OR PERSONNEL WOULD ALLEVIATE  
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ANY POSSIBLE SPANISH CONCERNS. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE  
INFORMED THE GOS OF THIS PROPOSED CHANGE, THROUGH THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS (PMAA),  
RATHER THAN INVITING CONCURRENCE.

2. THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE PMAA HAS NOW, AT THE 11TH HOUR  
TAKEN THE POSITION THAT ANY CHANGE IN DESIGNATION SHOULD

BE DECIDED IN THE U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL, ARGUING THAT THE LANGUAGE IN SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT NO. 6 OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION REFERRING TO A SMALL "D" DETACHMENT OF TANKER AIRCRAFT CONSTITUTES A DESIGNATION OF THE UNIT. (THE PRIOR UNIT, UNDER THE 1970 AGREEMENT, HAD BEEN A SQUADRON.) THE GOS CONCERN IS CLEARLY THAT, THE REALITY ASIDE, THE NEW DESIGNATION COULD GIVE THE PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF A CHANGE IN WHAT WAS AGREED IN THE TREATY.

3. SPANISH MILITARY CO-CHAIRMAN OF PMAA HAS ASSURED CHIEF JUSMG THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE MISSION, NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL OF DETACHMENT 2 WOULD NOT CHANGE. HE TERMED THIS A PROCEDURAL MATTER INVOLVING A CHANGE IN THE TEXT OF THE TREATY THAT, FROM THE LEGAL VIEWPOINT, SHOULD BE APPROVED AT LEVEL OF THE U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL.

4. WE SEE THREE CHOICES OPEN TO US IN VIEW OF THIS SPANISH POSITION:

(A) PROCEED WITH THE REDESIGNATION OF THE UNIT DESPITE THE SPANISH OBJECTION ON THE GROUNDS IT IS A MATTER INTERNAL TO THE USAF;

(B) HOLD OFF A CHANGE IN DESIGNATION OF THE ZARAGOZA DETACHMENT AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SPANISH AGREEMENT AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVEL OF THE COUNCIL; AND

(C) LEAVE THE NAME OF THE UNIT AS IT IS.

5. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE -- AND UNNECESSARY, SINCE IT IN FACT CHANGES NOTHING IN SPAIN -- TO PROCEED WITH THIS REDESIGNATION OVER SPANISH OBJECTIONS. MOREOVER, HAVING DECIDED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS QUESTION, THE SPANISH MAY HEW TO A HARD LINE, SO THAT AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN THEIR CONSENT THROUGH FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE COUNCIL COULD ALSO PROVE AN OBSTACLE TO MORE IMPORTANT INTERESTS WE HAVE WITH RESPECT TO KC-135 OPERATIONS IN SPAIN. BEFORE MAKING OUR FIRM RECOMMENDATION AS BETWEEN CHOICES B AND C IN PARA 4, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE FURTHER INFORMALLY WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES. THIS WE WILL DO OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND THEN PROVIDE THE RESULTS AND OUR RECOMMENDATION.

6. IN NO EVENT SHOULD THERE BE ANY MENTION OF DETACHMENT 2 IN SPAIN IN PUBLIC RELEASES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TWO AIR DIVISIONS WITHOUT FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH THE GOS.

7. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPANISH MEMO SUBMITTED TO PMAA  
UNDER JUNE 19 DATE:

QUOTE. IN THE OPINION OF THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE PMAA,  
AND IN AGREEMENT WITH THE AIR GENERAL STAFF, THE CHANGE  
OF DESIGNATION PROPOSED FOR THE KC-135 DETACHMENT NO. 2  
AT ZARAGOZA IS NOT IN ORDER SINCE IT WOULD ALTER THE  
DENOMINATION CONTAINED IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE  
ONE OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT NO. 6.

ANY MODIFICATION REPRESENTING A CHANGE TO THE CURRENT  
AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION OR ANY OF ITS  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE AUTHORIZED BY  
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THE U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL. UNQUOTE. EATON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 20 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** STATE  
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